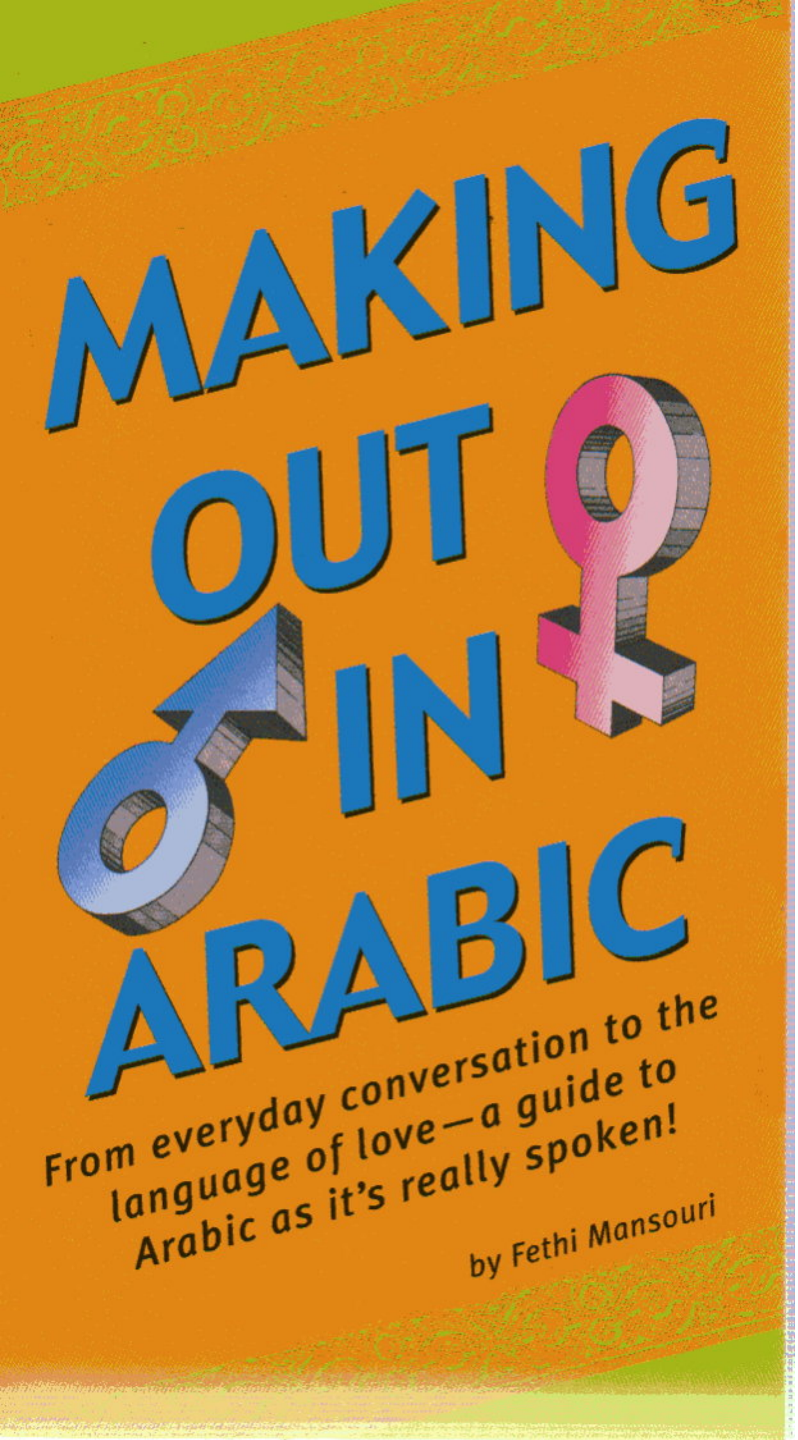

MAKING OUT IN ARABIC
From everyday conversation to the language of love—a guide to Arabic as it's really spoken!
by Fethi Mansouri

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Introduction

Making Out in Arabic is your passport to the living, breathing, colorful language spoken on the streets of the Arab world and the Middle East. It is the first book to give you access to the casual, unbuttoned Arabic that will allow you to express yourself in restaurants, cafes, and nightclubs, in crowded market places, and at train stations. Here you will find the warm-hearted language that you can use with friends, and also the rough-and-tumble language you can fall back on when you are ready for a fight.

Making Out in Arabic will be a useful companion throughout the Arab world – even when traveling in the furthest outbacks. So you want to meet people, make friends, eat out, go dancing, or just take part in friendly chitchat? A quick glance at *Making Out in Arabic* and you'll have the language at your fingertips.

PRONUNCIATION

Consonants

The imitated pronunciation should be read as if it were English. The emphatic consonants *d* and *t*, *s* and *z* represent more a question of volume than a separate sound.

> *th* is pronounced like **th** in **th**ree;
> *dh* is pronounced like **th** in **th**ere.
> *kh* is pronounced like **ch** in Scottish lo**ch**;
> *gh* is the voiced equivalent.

A few sounds do not exist in English, such as the uvular stop (q), which is pronounced like a "k" in the back of one's throat; a glottal stop ('), an abrupt, momentary cutting off of air followed by an explosive release and the pharyngeal fricatives both voiced (') and voiceless (h). A voiced pharyngeal fricative is produced by forcing air through a narrow channel in the

back of the throat with vibrations at one's vocal chords while a voiceless one is produced in the same manner without vibrations at the vocal chords. To check if a sound is voiced, place your fingers on your throat and feel the vibrations.

Vowels

There are three basic short vowels in Arabic and three long ones. These are:

a as in c**a**t
aa as in f**a**r
i as in p**i**n
ii as in cl**ea**n
u as in p**u**t
uu as in n**oo**n

Stress

Arabic words do not have a stress accent in the way that English ones do. However, individual consonants can exhibit stress by means of doubling. For example, in the word ***kassara*** "to break," the double s indicates consonantal stress as in the English name "Cassandra."

PRONOUNS

The following are the main Arabic personal pronouns:

I	***anaa***
You (singular, masculine)	***anta***
You (singuar, feminine)	***anti***
He	***huwa***
She	***hiya***
We	***naḫnu***
You (plural, masculine)	***antum***
You (plural, feminine)	***antunna***
They	***hum***

QUESTIONS

The easiest way of asking a question in Arabic is to use a question word at the beginning of the phrase or sentence, e.g.:

What's this?	***maa** haadha?*
Which man?	***ayyu** rajul?*
Which lady?	***ayyatu** imra'a?*
Who are you?	***man** anta?*
Why did the girl leave?	***limaadhaa** kharajat al-bintu?*
When did the plane land?	***mataa** habatat at-taa'ira?*
Where did he buy a shirt?	***ayna** ishtaraa qamiis?*

An affirmative sentence (statement) may be turned into an interrogative one (question) by means of the word ***hal***, e.g.:

The boy ate	***akala al-waladu***
Did the boy eat?	***hal** akala al-waladu?*

NEGATION

Negation is expressed differently for nominal as opposed to verbal sentences.

When negating nominal and adjectival phrases, ***laysa*** or one of its variants is inserted after the noun or pronoun to which it refers, e.g:

I am not angry ***lastu ghaadiban*** (literally "not I angry")

Laysa combines with the personal pronouns as follows:

I	***lastu***
You (singular, masculine)	***lasta***
You (singuar, feminine)	***lasti***
He	***laysa***
She	***laysat***
We	***lasnaa***
You (plural, masculine)	***lastum***

You (plural, feminine)	***lastunna***
They	***laysuu***

In addition, there are four verbal negation words used according to the tense of the verb, e.g.:

laa	present	***laa ashrab***	I'm not drinking
lan	future	***lan ashrab***	I won't drink
lam	past	***lam ashrab***	I didn't drink
maa	past/continuing	***maa sharibtu***	I haven't drunk

What's Up? 1

Hello. marhaban
مرحبا

How are you? kayfa l-haal?
كيف الحال؟

I'm fine. bikhayr
بخير

OK, I guess. al-umuur 'aadiyya
الأمور عادية
Not very common in Arabic.

So-so. laa ba'sa
لا بأس

Things are busy. anaa mashghuul jiddan
أنا مشغول جدا

Things are hard. al-awdaa' sa'ba
الأوضاع صعبة
Literally, this means the situation (conditions) is not as good as it should be.

How have you been? kayfa anta?
كيف أنت؟

I've been fine, thank you. anaa bikhayr, shukran
أنا بخير، شكرا

What's new? hal min jadiid?
هل من جديد؟

What have you been doing? maadha kunta taf'al?
ماذا كنت تفعل؟

Nothing much. laysa kathiiran
ليس كثيرا

Nothing special. لا شيء يذكر	laa shay' yudhkar
I haven't seen you around for a while. لم أرك في المنطقة منذ فترة	lam arak fi l-mintaqa mundhu fitra
Yes, it's been a long time. نعم، لقد مضى وقت طويل	na'am, laqad mada waqtun tawiil
Have you been around? هل كنت في المنطقة؟	Hal kunta fi l-mintaqa?
What are you doing here? ماذا تفعل هنا؟	maadha taf'al hunaa
How's Peter / Mary doing? كيف حال بيتر/ماري؟	kayfa haal Peter / Mary?
He's / she's fine. إنه/إنها بخير	innahu / innaha bikhayr
Anything new with Peter/ Mary? هل من جديد مع بيتر/ماري؟	hal min jadiid ma'a Peter / Mary?
What's wrong? ماذا حدث؟	maadha hadath?
What's on your mind? ماذا يدور بفكرك؟	maadha yaduur bifikrik?
Nothing. لا شيء	laa shay'
I was just thinking. كنت أفكر	kuntu ufakkir
I was just daydreaming. لقد سرحت بالتفكير	laqad sarihtu bit-tafkiir
It's none of your business. هذا الأمر لا يهمك	haadha al-amr laa yahummuk

Mind your own business. ihtamm bimaa huwa min sha'nik
اهتم بما هو من شأنك

Leave me alone. utruknii liwahdii
اتركني لوحدي

Go away. idhhab min hunaa
إذهب من هنا

Fuck off. hill 'annii
حل عني

This is a colloquial expression which means "get out of my sight". The actual expression "fuck off" is not used in Standard Arabic.

Really? haqqan?
حقا؟

Is that so? ahaakadhaa?
أهكذا؟



Are you sure? hal anta muta'akkid?
هل أنت متأكد؟

Oh, yeah? aah, na'am?
آه، نعم؟

You're lying. anta takdhib
أنت تكذب

This expression is very impolite in Arabic and should be avoided as much as possible. You can suggest to your interlocutor instead that their information might be incorrect using the expression "ma'luumatik khaatia".

Don't lie. laa takdhib
لا تكذب

Stop lying. tawaqqaf 'an il-kadhib
توقف عن الكذب

How come? wa kayfa dhaalik?
وكيف ذلك؟

What do you mean? maadha taqsid?
مذا تقصد؟

Is something wrong? maa l-mushkila?
ما المشكلة؟

What's the difference? maa l-farq?
ما الفرق؟

What? maadha?
ماذا؟

Huh? haa?
ها؟

Are you serious? hal anta jiddii?
هل أنت جدي؟

You don't mean it! anta laa taqsid haadha!
أنت لا تقصد هذا!

That's impossible! haadha mustahiil!
هذا مستحيل!

That's too good to be true. laa yumkin an yakuun haadha sahiihan
لا يمكن أن يكون هذا صحيحا

I don't believe it. laa usaddiq haadha
لا أصدق هذا

You're joking.
أنت تمزح

anta tamzah

Are you making fun of me?
هل تسخر مني؟

hal taskhar minnii?



Stop joking!
توقف عن المزاح

tawaqqaf 'an il-muzaah!

I'm not joking.
لست أمزح

lastu amzah

It's true.
هذا صحيح

haadha sahiih

You're crazy.
أنت مجنون

anta majnuun

That's right.
هذا صحيح

haadha sahiih

Absolutely.
بالتأكيد

bit-ta'kiid

Definitely.
قطعا

qat'an

Of course. tab'an
طبعا

You'd better believe it. 'alayka an tusaddiq
عليك أن تصدق

No way. laa yumkin
لا يمكن

The expression "mustahiil" meaning "impossible" can also be used in this context.

I guess so. azunnu dhaalik
أظن ذلك

I hope so. aamulu dhaalik
آمل ذلك

I hope not. aamulu an laa yakuuna kadhaalik
آمل أن لا يكون كذلك

It might be true. mumkin an yakuun haqiiqa
ممكن أن يكون حقيقة

I doubt it. ashukku fii dhaalik
أشك في ذلك

I don't think so. laa azunnu dhaalik
لا أظن ذلك

I'm not sure. lastu muta'akkidan
لست متأكدا

There's no way of knowing. laysa hunaaka tariiqa lilma'rifa
ليس هناك طريقة للمعرفة

I can't say for sure. laa astatii' an ua'kkid
لا أستطيع أن أوكد

I wonder... atasaa'alu...
أتساءل...

The literal meaning of "I wonder" in Arabic is "ata'ajjabu" which indicates astonishment rather the English sense of "wondering" about something.

Forget it. insaa
إنسى

I've had enough.
تحملت كفاية
tahammaltu kifaaya

Damn.
اللعنة
al-la'na

Bullshit.
هذا هراء
haadha huraa'

You can't do that.
لا تستطيع أن تفعل ذلك
laa tastatii' an taf'al dhaalika

I don't care.
لا يهمني
laa yahummuniil

It's got nothing to do with me.
لا علاقة لي بذلك
laa 'alaaqata lii bidhaalik

It means nothing to me.
لا يعني شيئا بالنسبة لي
laa ya'nii shay-an bin-nisbati lii

I'm not interested.
لا يهمني
laa yahummunii

Sure, if you like.
بالتأكيد، إذا رغبت
bit-ta'kiid, idhaa raghibt

Whatever you want.
كما تريد
kamaa turiid

Anything's fine with me.
أنا لا أكترث لذلك
anaa laa aktarith lidhaalik

I think so too.
أظن ذلك أيضا
azunnu dhaalika aydan

So am I. / Me too.
وكذلك أنا/أنا أيضا
wa kadhaalika anaa / anaa aydan

I see what you mean.
أنا أرى ما تقصده
anaa ara maa taqsiduhu

All right, I understand.
حسنا، أنا أفهم
hasanan, anaa afham

All right, no problem. hasanan, laa yuujad ayy ishkaal
حسنا ، لا يوجد أي إشكال

That was good. kaana dhaalika jayyidan
كان ذلك جيدا

Great! 'aziim
عظيم

I like it! haadha yu'jibunii!
هذا يعجبني



I did it! laqad fa'altuhaa
لقد فعلتها

No problem. maa min mushkila
ما من مشكلة

It was no problem. lam yakun sa'ban
لم يكن صعبا

But... wa laakin...
ولكن...

It's risky. haadha amrun khatiir
هذا أمر خطير

The word "risky" translates to "dangerous" in Arabic which is not used unless the situation is indeed "dangerous". A suitable alternative is the word "muhim" meaning literally "important" but one that coveys the English meaning of "serious" adequately.

Cheer up. ibtahij

ابتهج

Calm down. ihda'

اهدأ

Never mind. laysa muhimman

ليس مهماً

It doesn't matter. laa yahumm

لا يهم

Basic Phrases 2

Yes.	نعم	na'am
No.	لا	laa
OK.	طيب	tayyib

This word can be used interchangeably with the word "hasanan", meaning "well".

What?	ماذا ؟	maadha?
Who?	من ؟	man?
Whose?	لمن ؟	liman?
Where?	أين ؟	ayna?
When?	متى ؟	mataa?
Why?	لماذا ؟	limaadha?
Why not?	لم لا ؟	limaa laa?
Because...	لأن...	li'anna...
How?	كيف ؟	kayfa?

This. هذا	haadha
That. ذاك	dhaaka
Here. هنا	hunaa
There. هناك	hunaaka
Maybe. ممكن	mumkin
Maybe not. ربما لا	rubbamaa laa
I. أنا	anaa
You. أنت	anta
He / she. هو/هي	huwa / hiya
We. نحن	nahnu
You (plural). أنتم	antum
They. هم	humm
Don't. لا تفعل	laa taf'al
Please. من فضلك	min fadlik

The expression "law samaht" meaning "if you permit" can be used interchangeably here.

Thank you. شكراً	shukran

Can I have that? ممكن آخذ ذلك؟	mumkin aakhudh dhaalika?
How much is this? بكم هذا ؟	bikamm haadha?
That's so cheap. هذا رخيص	haadha rakhiis
That's not cheap. هذا ليس رخيصا	haadha laysa rakhiisan
That's too expensive. هذا غال جدا	haadha ghaalin jiddan
I'm not buying that. لن أشتري ذلك	lan ashtariya dhaalika
Make it cheaper and I'll buy it. إذا ترخص الثمن فسأشترية	idhaa turakhkhis ath-thaman fa-sa-ashtariih

Bargaining is normal in most Arabic countries especially in old markets (souks) and medinas.

Got a Minute? 3

One moment, please. lahza min fadlik
لحظة من فضلك

When? mataa?
متى؟

Till when? ila ghaayat?
إلى غاية...؟

About when? mataa taqriiban?
متى تقريبا؟

The Arabic question word "mataa" can also be used in this context.

What time? fii ayy waqt?
في أي وقت؟



s that too early? hal haadhaa baakirun jiddan?
هل هذا باكر جـ

that too late? hal haadha muta'akhirun jiddan?
هل هذا متأخر جـ

What time is it convenient for you? ما هو الوقت المناسب لك؟	maa huwa al-waqt al-munaasib laka?
What day is it convenient for you? أي يوم مناسب لك؟	ay yawm munaasib laka?
How about tomorrow? ما رأيك في الغد؟	maa ra'yuk fi l-ghad?
How about the day after tomorrow? ما رأيك في بعد الغد؟	maa ra'yuka fii ba'd al-ghad?
Today. اليوم	al-yawm
Yesterday. البارحة	al-baariha

In many Arabic countries "amsi" will be used.

The day before yesterday أول أمس	awwal ams
How about the 18th? ما رأيك في الثامن عشر؟	maa ra'yuk fii ath-thaamin 'ashar?
The first / second / third / fourth / fifth... ألأول/الثاني/الثالث/الرابع/الخامس	al-awwal / ath-thaanii / ath-thaalith / ar-raabi' / al-khaamis
The sixth / seventh / eighth / ninth / tenth... السادس/السابع/الثامن/التاسع/العاشر	as-saadis / as-saabi' / ath-thaamin / at-taasi' / al-'aashir
The eleventh / twelfth / thirteenth / fourteenth / fifteenth... الحادي عشر/الثاني عشر/الثالث عشر/الرابع عشر/الخامس عشر	al-haadii 'ashar / ath-thaanii 'ashar / ath-thaalith 'ashar / ar-raabi' 'ashar / al-khaamis 'ashar

The sixteenth / seventeenth / eighteenth / nineteenth / twentieth... السادس عشر/السابع عشر/الثامن عشر/التاسع عشر/العشرون	as-saadis 'ashar / as-saabi' 'ashar / ath-thaamin 'ashar / at-taasi' 'ashar / al-'ishruun
The twenty-first / twenty-second / twenty-third / twenty-fourth / twenty-fifth... الحادي والعشرون/الثاني والعشرون/الثالث والعشرون/الرابع والعشرون/الخامس والعشرون	al-haadi wal 'ishruun / ath-thaani wal 'ishruun / ath-thaalith wal 'ishruun / ar-raabi' wal 'ishruun / al-khaamis wal 'ishruun
The twenty-sixth / twenty-seventh / twenty-eighth / twenty-ninth... السادس والعشرون/السابع والعشرون/الثامن والعشرون/التاسع والعشرون	as-saadis wal 'ishruun / as-saabi' wal 'ishruun / ath-thaamin wal 'ishruun / at-taasi' wal 'ishruun
The thirtieth / thirty-first... الثلاثون/الواحد والثلاثون	ath-thalaathuun / al-waahid wath-thalaathuun
...of January / February / March / April / May / June / July. من كانون الثاني/شباط/آذار/نيسان/أيار/حزيران/تموز	min kaanuun ath-thaanii / shubaat / aadhaar / naysaan / ayyar / huzayraan / tammuuz

In many parts of the Arab world, different names for the calendar months are in use. For example, in North Africa the French names of months are Arabised.

...of August / September / October / November / December. من آب/أيلول/تشرين الأول/تشرين الثاني/كانون الأول	min aab / ayluul / tishriin al-awwal / tishriin ath-thaanii / kaanuun al-awwal

Could it be sooner? ممكن أن نقدم موعده؟	mumkin an nuqaddim maw'idah?
I'd rather make it later. أفضل تأخيره	ufaddil ta'khiirah
One / two / three / four / five / six o'clock. الساعة الواحدة/الثانية/الثالثة/الرابعة/الخامسة/السادسة	as-saa'a al-waahida / ath-thaaniya / ath-thaalitha / ar-raabi'a / al-khaamisa / as-saadisa
Half past seven / eight / nine / ten / eleven. السابعة والنصف/الثامنة/التاسعة/العاشرة/الحادية عشرة	as-saabi'a wan-nisf / ath-thaamina / at-taasi'a / al-'aashira / al-haadiyata 'ashara
In the morning. في الصباح	fi s-sabaah
In the afternoon. بعد الظهر	ba'da z-zuhr
In the evening. في المساء	fi l-masaa'
Midday. منتصف النهار	muntasaf an-nahaar
Midnight. منتصف الليل	muntasaf al-layl
Then when can you make it? إذا متى تستطيع أن تقوم بة؟	idhaa mataa tastatii' an taquum bihi?
What time can I come over? متى أستطيع أن أتي إليك؟	mataa astatii' an aati ilayka?
What time do we leave? متى سنغادر؟	mataa sa-nughaadir?
What time do we arrive? متى سنصل؟	mataa sanasil?

What time will you be back?	في أي وقت تعود؟	fii ay waqt ta'uud?
Are you ready?	هل أنت مستعد؟	hal anta musta'idd?
When will you do it?	متى ستقوم به؟	mataa sataquumu bihi?
When will it be finished?	متى سينتهي؟	mataa sa-yantahii?
How long will it take?	كم من الوقت يحتاج؟	kam mina al-waqt yahtaaj?
It'll be done soon.	سأنتهي قريبا	sa-antahii qariiban
Not now.	ليس الآن	laysa al'aan
Maybe later.	ممكن فيما بعد	mumkin fiimaa ba'd
Not yet.	ليس بعد	laysa ba'd
Last time.	آخر مرة	aakhir marra
Previously.	سابقا	saabiqan
Next time.	المرة القادمة	al-marra al-qaadima
I don't know when.	لا أعرف متى	laa a'rif mataa
I don't know yet.	لا أعلم بعد	laa a'lam ba'd
I'm not sure.	لست متأكدا	lastu muta'akkidan

Sometime. أحيانا	ahyaanaan
Someday. يوما ما	yawman maa
Always. دائما	daa'iman
Every day. كل يوم	kulla yawm
Never again! لن يعاد	lan yu'aad!
Anytime is fine. ممكن في أي وقت	mumkin fii ayy waqt
You decide when. أنت تقرر متى	anta tuqarrir mataa
Whenever you like. متى يحلو لك	mataa yahlu lak
That day is fine. ذلك اليوم مناسب	dhaalika al-yawm munaasib
OK, let's meet then. طيب، فلنلتقي إذا	tayyib, fa-lnaltaqii idhan
That's a bad day for me. هذا يوم سيئ لي (لا يناسبني)	haadhaa yawm sayyi' lii (laa yunaasibnii)

Arab people don't always state such "negative" opinions directly.

Let's begin. هيا نبدأ	hayyaa nabda'
Let's continue. هيا نتابع	hayya nutaabi'
Let's start again. هيا نبدأ مرة أخرى	hayya nabda' marra ukhra
Let's do it later. فلنقم به لاحقا	fa-lnaqum bihi laahiqan

It'll only take a minute. سيأخذ لحظة فقط	saya'khudh lahza faqat
Hurry up! أسرع	asri'!
Do it later. قم به لاحقا	qum bihi laahiqan
I'll do it quickly. سأقوم به بسرعة	sa-aquum bihi bi-sur'a
I'll finish soon. سأنتهي حالا	sa-antahii haalan
I've finished. انتهيت	intahaytu
Have you finished? هل انتهيت؟	hal intahayta?

Hey There!

4

Listen! isma'

إسمع!

An interrogative version of the verb in this situation will also be appropriate as in: "hal tasma' shayan?"

Can you hear something? hal tasma' shay-an?

هل تسمع شيئا ؟

What's that noise? maa haadhihi ad-dajja?

ما هذه الضجة؟

Listen to what I'm saying. isghi limaa aquuluh

إصغ لما أقوله

Don't listen to him. laa tastami' ilayh

لا تستمع إليه

Don't ask me that. laa tas'alnii

لا تسألني

Can you hear me? hal tasma'nii?

هل تسمعني؟

Did you hear me? hal sami'tanii?

هل سمعتني؟



I couldn't hear. لم أسمع	lam asma'
I don't want to hear about that. لا أريد أن أسمع عن ذلك	laa uriid an asma' 'an <u>dh</u>aalik
Say something. قل شيئا	qul <u>sh</u>ay-an
Don't say such things. لا تقل شيئا كذلك	laa taqul <u>sh</u>ay-an ka<u>dh</u>aalik
What are you talking about? عما تتكلم؟	'ammaa tatakallam?
You shouldn't say things like that. يجب ألا تقول مثل تلك الأشياء	yajib allaa taquul mi<u>th</u>il tilka al-a<u>sh</u>yaa'
I didn't say anything. لم أقل شيئا	lam aqul <u>sh</u>ay-an
Let's talk in Arabic. هيا نتكلم بالعربية	hayyaa natakallam bil-'arabiyya
Can you speak Arabic? أتستطيع أن تتحدث بالعربية؟	atastatii' an tata<u>h</u>ada<u>th</u> bil-'arabiyya?

Arab people always find it strange that foreigners are able to speak Arabic (even someone with a very basic competence level).

Let's carry on talking. لنستمر في الحديث	li-nastamirr fil-<u>h</u>adii<u>th</u>
Let's talk about it later. فلنتكلم عن ذلك لاحقا	fa-li-natakallam 'an <u>dh</u>aalika laa<u>h</u>iqan
Tell me later. أخبرني لاحقا	a<u>kh</u>birnii laa<u>h</u>iqan
I don't feel like talking. لا أرغب في الكلام	laa ar<u>gh</u>ab fil-kalaam

I don't want to talk to you. laa uriid an atakallam ma'aka
لا أريد أن أتكلم معك



Don't ask me that. laa tas'alnii
لا تسألني

I don't want to talk about it. laa uriid an ata<u>h</u>adda<u>th</u> 'an <u>dh</u>aalik
لا أريد أن أتحدث عن ذلك

Don't make excuses. laa ta<u>kh</u>taliq a'<u>dh</u>aaran
لا تختلق أعذار

That's not a good excuse. haa<u>dh</u>a laysa 'u<u>dh</u>ran maqbuulan
هذا ليس عذرا مقبولا

Stop complaining. tawaqqaf 'an il-ta<u>sh</u>akki
توقف عن التشكي

Complaining about little things is common in Arabic culture, in particular among women.

Do you know what you're saying? hal tudrik maa taquul?
هل تدرك ما تقول؟

Don't talk so loudly. laa tatakallam bi<u>s</u>awt murtafi'
لا تتكلم بصوت مرتفع

Speak up. إرفع صوتك	irfa' sawtak
Speak more slowly. تحدث بهدوء	tahaddath bihuduu'
Say it again. أعد ما قلت	a'id maa qult
Do you understand? أتفهم؟	atafham?
I understand. أنا أفهم	anaa afham
I don't understand. لم أفهم	lam afham
Can you understand me? أتستطيع أن تفهمني؟	atastatii' an tafhamnii?
I couldn't understand. لم أستطع أن افهم	lam astati' an afham
What did you say? ماذا قلت؟	maadha qult?
Did you say that? هل قلت ذلك؟	hal qulta dhaalik?
I didn't say that. لم أقل ذلك	lam aqul dhaalik
I didn't say anything. لم أقل شيئا	lam aqul shay-an
I didn't tell anyone. لم أخبر أحدا	lam ukhbir ahadan
I won't tell anyone. لن أخبر أحدا	lan ukhbira ahadan

Look At That! 5

Look!
أنظر
unzur!

Look at this.
أنظر إلى هذا
unzur ila haadha

Look at that.
أنظر إلى ذلك
unzur ila dhaalika

Take a look.
إلق نظرة
ilqi nazra

Normally such utterances would be followed by the adverb "bi-sur'a" meaning quickly.

Don't look!
لا تنظر
laa tanzur!



Don't look at this / that.
لا تنظر إلى هذا/ذلك
laa tanzur ila haadha / dhaalika

Can you see it?
هل تراه؟
hal taraah?

Did you see it? هل رأيته؟	hal ra'aytah?
I can see it clearly. إني أرى ذلك بوضوح	innii araa dhaalika bi-wuduuh
I saw it. رأيته	ra'aytuhu
I didn't see it. لم أره	lam arah
I don't want to see it. لا أريد أن أراه	laa uriid an araah
Have you seen Jeff? هل رأيت جيف؟	hal ra'ayta Jeff?
I want to see you soon. أريد أن أراك قريبا	uriidu an araaka qariiban

The term "qariiban" means literally "near" but as in this context it can also indicate temporal proximity.

I've been wanting to see you. لقد اردت رؤيتك منذ وقت طويل	laqd ardtu ru'yataka mundhu waqtin tawiilin
I saw Paul the other day. رأيت بول قبل بضعة أيام	ra'aytu buul qabla bid'at ayyaam
I'm going to see Kim next week. سوف أرى كيم في الأسبوع القادم	sawfa araa Kim fil-'usbuu' al-qaadim
So we meet again! إذا نلتقي مرة أخرى	idhan naltaqii marra ukhraa!
I'll show you. سوف أريك	sawfa uriik
I won't show you. لن أريك	lan uriika

Coming and Going 6

Come here! ta'aala hunaa
تعال هنا

Such commands should always be preceded by polite expressions such as "min fadlik" meaning "please".

Come over to my place. ta'aala ila baytii
تعال إلى بيتي

I'll come over soon. sa-azuuruk qariiban
سأزورك قريبا

Come later. zurnii laahiqan
زرني لاحقا

Can you come? atastatii' an ta'tii?
أتستطيع أن تأتي؟

Come along with us. ta'aala ma'anaa
تعال معنا

She's coming here. innaha aatiya ila huna
إنها آتية إلى هنا

I'm coming, wait a second. ana aatin, intazir lahza
أنا أت، إنتظر لحظة

I'll go soon. sa-adhhabu haalan
سأذهب حالا

I can go. astatii' an adhhab
أستطيع أن أذهب

I think I can go. a'taqid annahu bi-imkaanii an adhhaba
أعتقد أنه بإمكاني أن أذهب

I can't go. laa astatii' an adhhaba
لا أستطيع أن أذهب

I want to go.
أريد أن أذهب
uriid an adhhab

I want to go to Baghdad.
أريد أن أذهب إلى بغداد
uriid an adhhaba ila baghdaad

I really want to go.
في الواقع أريد أن أذهب
fil-waaqi' uriid an adhhaba

I don't want to go.
لا أريد أن أذهب
laa uriid an adhhaba

I really don't want to go.
في الواقع لا أريد أن أذهب
fil-waaqi' laa uriid an adhhaba

You're going, aren't you?
أنت ذاهب أليس كذلك؟
anta dhaahib alaysa kadhaalika?

You went, didn't you?
ذهبت أليس كذلك؟
dhahabta alaysa kadhaalika?

I'm going.
أنا ذاهب
anaa dhaahib

I'm not going.
لست ذاهبا
lastu dhaahiban

I went.
ذهبت
dhahabtu

I didn't go.
لم أذهب
lam adhhab

Don't go!
لاتذهب
laa tadhhab

Don't go yet.
لا تذهب بعد
laa tadhhab ba'd

I have to go.
يجب أن أذهب
yajib an adhhab

I must go now.
يجب أن أذهب الآن
yajib an adhhab al-aan

May I go?
هل أستطيع أن أذهب؟
hal astatii' an adhhab?

Shall we go? هل نذهب؟	hal nadhhab?
Let's go. هيا بنا	hayyaa binaa
Let's leave here. لنترك هنا	li-natruk hunaa
I'm leaving soon. أنا مغادر قريبا	anaa mughaadirun qariiban
She has left here. لقد غادرت هذا المكان	laqad ghaadarat haadha l-makaan
Stay here. إبق هنا	ibqa hunaa
Where are you going? إلى أين ذاهب؟	ila ayna dhaahib?
Please go first. أرجوك أذهب أنت أولا	arjuuk idhhab anta awwalan
Thanks for letting me go first. شكرا على سماحك لي بالذهاب أولا	shukran 'ala samaahika lii bi-dhahaab awwalan
Go slowly. تمهل	tamahhal

Eat, Drink, Be Merry! 7

I'm hungry. anaa jaa'i'
أنا جائع

Food and eating are major social events in the Arab world. Even a quick lunch can be a social event shared among friends and family members.

I'm starving. anaa jaw'aan
أنا جوعان

I'd like to eat something. uriidu an aakula shay-an
أريد أن أكل شيئا ؟

Have you eaten? hal akalta?
هل أكلت؟

Joining others and sharing food with them is a sign of welcome and friendship.

I haven't eaten yet. lam aakul ba'd
لم آكل بعد

Do you want to eat something? aturiid an ta'kula shay-an?
أتريد أن تأكل شيئا ؟

I don't want to eat. laa uriid an aakul
لا أريد أن آكل

I won't eat. lan aakula
لن آكل

It is important to indicate the reason for not wanting to eat, otherwise a negative conclusion can be drawn.

Do you want to eat some more? hal turiid al-maziid min at-ta'am?
هل تريد المزيد من الطعام؟

It is customary to show that you really enjoyed the food by accepting an extra serving.

What would you like? maadha tuhibb?
ماذا تحب؟

I'm thirsty. anaa 'atshaan
أنا عطشان

Do you want to drink something? hal turiidu an tashraba shay-an?
هل تريد أن تشرب شيئا ؟

I'd like to drink beer. uhibbu an ashraba biira
أحب أن أشرب بيرة

Beer is not consumed publicly in many Arab countries because of the strict Islamic rules. But many young people do often drink beer in hotels and western-style cafes (bars).

I want some liquor. uriidu ba'd ash-sharaab
أريد بعض الشراب

I don't want to drink. laa uriidu an ashraba
لا أريد أن أشرب

I won't drink. lan ashraba
لن أشرب

I haven't drunk yet. lam ashrab ba'd
لم أشرب بعد

This tastes too weird. ta'muhu ghariib jiddan
طعمه غريب جدا

I think this has gone bad. azunnu annahu taalif
أظن أنه تالف



I think this stuff's stale. أظن أن هذا الأكل قديم	azunnu anna haadhaa al-akil qadiim
Wow, this tastes good! هذا طعمه جيد	haadhaa, ta'mahu jayyid!
Do you want to drink some more? أتريد المزيد من الشراب؟	aturiid al-maziid mina ash-sharaab?
Thank you, but I still have some. شكرا ، ولكن ما زال لدي بعض الشراب	shukran, wa laakin maa zaala laday ba'du ush-sharaab
Come on, drink a little bit more. هيا ، أشرب المزيد	hayya, ishrab il-maziid
It's on me. على حسابي	'ala hisaabii

Unlike in Western societies, Arabs do not like to divide the bill. So one individual (usually the host) will always pay the full bill.

How about some dinner? ما رأيك في تناول العشاء معا؟	maa ra'yuka fii tanaawul al-'ashaa' ma'an?
Have you ordered? هل طلبت؟	hal talabt?
Is the meal ready? هل الوجبة جاهزة (حاضرة)؟	hal al-wajba jaahiza (haadira)?
It's ready. إنها جاهزة	innaha jaahiza
Will you try this food? ممكن أن تتذوق هذا الطعام؟	mumkin an tatadhawwaq haadha at-ta'aam?
That looks delicious. يبدو لذيذا	yabduu ladhiidhan



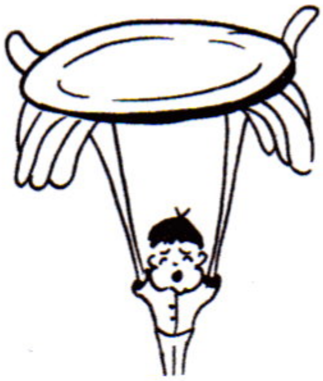
It smells good. raai'hatuhu jayyida
رائحته جيدة

This is a feast. haadhihi waliima
هذه وليمة

Yum! ladhiidh!
لذيذ

Do you want more food? aturiid al-maziid mina at-ta'aam?
اتريد المزيد من الطعام؟

I'd like more food. uhib al-maziid mina at-ta'aam
أحب المزيد من الطعام



Give me some more. a'tinii al-maziid mina at-ta'aam
أعطني المزيد من الطعام

Give me a little more. a'tinii aqal min haadha
أعطني أقل من هذا

Enough? ayakfii?
أيكفي؟

Enough. yakfii
يكفي

Not enough. laa yakfii
لا يكفي

What's this? maa haadhaa?
ما هذا؟

Taste it. tadhawwaqhu
تذوقه

I can't eat that. laa astatii' an aakula haadhaa
لا أستطيع أن آكل هذا

What's it called? maadhaa yusammaa?
ماذا يسمى؟

Is it spicy? hal huwa mubahharr?
هل هو مبهر؟

Yuck! ikh (muqrif)!
إخ (مقرف)

It's not good. laysa jayyidan
ليس جيدا

It doesn't taste good. ta'muhu laysa jayyidan
طعمه ليس جيدا

It's awful. innahu fazii'
إنه فظيع

It tastes like shit. innahu fazii'
إنه فظيع

The spoken Arabic term for "shit" (kharaa) is not used frequently as it has strong negative (even impolite) connotations.

Water, water! maa', maa'!
ماء، ماء

My mouth's on fire. famii yahtariq
فمي يحترق



How do you eat this? kayfa ta'kul haadha?
كيف تأكل هذا ؟

Please bring me a fork. arjuuk ahdir lii shawka
أرجوك احضر لي شوكة

Do you want a knife? hal turiid sikkiin?
هل تريد سكينا ؟

I Like It! 8

I like this. yu'jibunii haa<u>dh</u>a
يعجبني هذا

Arab people tend to always indicate that they like things (gifts) even if they don't really think so. This is a face-saving strategy aimed at making the other person feel good about their choice of things / gifts etc.

I like it a lot. yu'jibunii ka<u>th</u>iiran
يعجبني كثيرا

I don't like it very much. laa yu'jibunii ka<u>th</u>iiran
لا يعجبني كثيرا

I don't like it. haa<u>dh</u>a laa yu'jibunii
هذا لا يعجبني



I hate it. akrahuh
أكرهه

I really hate it. <u>h</u>aqiiqatan akrahuh
حقيقة أكرهه

No, thank you. laa, <u>sh</u>ukran
لا، شكرا

I want...(noun). uriidu...
أريد...

I don't want... laa uriidu...
لا أريد...

I want to...(verb). uriidu an...
أريد أن...

I don't want to... laa uriidu an...
لا أريد أن...

I really don't want it. haqiiqatan, laa uriiduhu
حقيقة لا أريدة

I don't need this. laa ahtaaj ila haadha
لا أحتاج إلى هذا

I'm busy. anaa mashghuul
أنا مشغول

I'm happy. anaa sa'iid
أنا سعيد



I'm pleased to hear that. anaa sa'iid lisamaa' dhaalik
أنا سعيد لسماع ذلك

I'm glad to know that. anaa sa'iid lima'rifati dhaalik
أنا سعيد لمعرفة ذلك

I'm sad. anaa haziin
أنا حزين

I'm fine. anaa bikhayr
أنا بخير

I'm afraid. anaa khaa'if
أنا خائف

I'm getting sick of it. bada'tu amull min dhaalik
بدأت أمل من ذلك

I'm irritated. anaa mutadaayiq
أنا متضايق

I'm mad at you. anaa munza'ij minka
أنا منزعج منك

I'm pissed off. anaa munza'ij
أنا منزعج

There is no equivalence in Arabic to the English "pissed off". Therefore, an alternative expression such as "munza'ij" should be used.

I'm confused. anaa murtabik
أنا مرتبك



I'm going crazy. sa'ujann
سأجن

I freaked. anaa khaa'if
أنا خائف

I'm ready. anaa musta'idd
أنا مستعد

I'm tired. anaa ta'baan
أنا تعبان

I'm sleepy. anaa na'saan
أنا نعسان

I'm hung over. — anaa thamil
أنا ثمل

It's not typical of people in the Arab world to indicate that they are "drunk" or "stoned". This is because drinking is not socially accepted.

I'm stoned. — anaa sakraan
أنا سكران

I'm surprised. — laqad fuuji'tu bi-haadha
لقد فوجئت بهذا

I'm bored. — ash'uru bil-malal
أشعر بالملل

I'm tired of it. — anaa mut'ab min dhaalik
أنا متعب من ذلك

What a drag! — taala haadha al-'amr 'akthar mina al-laazim
طال هذا الأمر أكثر من اللازم

How awful! — yaa lal-fazaa'a (lil-shanaa'a)
يا للفظاعة (للشناعة)

What a pity! — yaa lal-khasaara
يا للخسارة

What a relief! — lihusn il-hazz
لحسن الحظ

I'm relieved to hear that. — irtahtu lisamaa'i dhaalik
ارتحت لسماع ذلك

I feel sick. — ash'uru bit-taqayyu'
أشعر بالتقيؤ



That's sickening. هذا فظيع	haadhaa fazii'
I'm disappointed. خاب أملي	khaaba 'amalii
I'm disappointed in you. خاب أملي بك	khaaba 'amalii bik
I was worried. كنت قلقا	kuntu qaliqan
Can you do it? أتستطيع أن تفعله؟	atastatii' an taf'aluh?
I can do it. أستطيع أن أفعله	astatii' an 'af'aluh
I can't do it. لا أستطيع أن أفعله	laa astatii' an 'af'aluh
I'll do it. سأفعله	sa-'af'aluh

In Arabic such utterances are always followed with the "insha'a Allah" expression. This means "God willing".

I've got to do it. علي أن أفعله	'alayya an 'af'aluh
Sorry. آسف	aasif
I can't help it. لا أستطيع تجنب ذلك	laa astatii' tajannub dhaalik
That can't be helped. لا يمكن مساعدة ذلك	laa yumkin musaa'adat dhaalik
I understand. أنا أفهم	anaa 'afham
I know. أنا أعرف/أعلم	anaa 'a'rif / 'a'lam
I know that person. أعرف ذلك الشخص	a'rif dhaalika ash-shakhs

Do you know that? أتعلم ذلك؟ — ata'lam dhaalik?

Ah, you know that. حسنا ، أنت تعلم ذلك — hasanan, anta ta'lam dhaalik

Give me time to think it over. أعطني وقتا للتفكير بذلك — a'tinii waqtan lit-tafkiir bidhaalik

I'll think about it. سأفكر بذلك — sa'ufakkir bidhaalik

I made a mistake. أخطأت — akhta'tu

I blew it. لقد أسأت التصرف — laqad asa'tu at-tasarruf

Am I right? هل أنا على حق؟ — hal anaa 'ala haqq?

Am I wrong? هل أنا على خطأ؟ — hal anaa 'ala khata'?

Curses and Insults 9

What do you want? ماذا تريد؟	maadha turiid?
Do you want to say something? أتريد أن تقول شيئا؟	aturiid an taquula shay-an?
Don't look at me. لا تنظر إلي	laa tanzur ilayya
What are you staring at? بماذا تحدق؟	bi-maadha tuhaddiq?
What did you say? ماذا قلت؟	maadha qult?
Who do you think you're talking to? من تعتقد أنك تخاطب؟	man ta'taqid annaka tukhaatib?
Do you know who I am? أتعرف من أنا؟	ata'rif man anaa?



Why do you talk like that? limaadha tatakallam haakadha?
لماذا تتكلم هكذا؟

Come here, I'll teach you some manners. ta'aal ila huna, sa'u'allimuka ba'da al-aadab
تعال إلى هنا، سأعلمك بعض الآداب

Don't mess round with me. laa tatalaa'ab ma'ii
لا تتلاعب معي

Stop it! tawaqqaf!
توقف

Shut up! uskut!
أسكت

What are you doing? maadha taf'al?
ماذا تفعل؟

What did you hit me for? limaadha tadribunii?
لماذا تضربني؟

Why did you push me? limaadha dafa'tanii?
لماذا دفعتني؟

Do you want to fight? aturiid an tatashaajar?
أتريد أن تتشاجر؟

I'm going to kill you. sa'aqtuluk
سأقتلك

Are we going to fight or not? hal sa-natashaajar am laa?
هل سنتشاجر أم لا؟

Let's fight and see. hayya natashaajar wa sa-naraa.
هيا نتشاجر وسنرى

Ouch! aah!
آه!

That hurts. haadha yu'lim
هذا يؤلم

Don't!	لا تفعل	laa taf'al
Don't hit me.	لا تدربني	laa tadribnii
Don't do it again.	لا تفعل ذلك مرة أخرى	laa taf'aal dhaalik marra ukhra
Help!	النجدة	an-najda!
You're making me laugh.	إنك تضحكني	innaka tudhikunii
You deserve it.	تستحق ذلك	tastahiq dhaalik
You win.	أنت الفائز	anta l-faa'iz
You're right.	أنت على حق	anta 'ala haqq
I was wrong.	كنت مخطيء	kuntu mukhti'
It was my fault.	كانت غلطتي	kaanaat ghaltatii
Forgive me.	سامحني	saamihnii
Say you're sorry.	قل إنك متأسف	qul innaka muta'assif
I'm sorry.	أنا آسف	anaa aasif
I forgive you.	سامحتك	saamahtuka
You're stupid.	أنت أحمق	anta ahmaq
That's stupid.	هذه حماقة	haadhihi hamaaqa

What you did was stupid. maa fa'altahu kaana humqan
ما فعلته كان حمقا

You're crazy. anta majnuun
أنت مجنون

Liar! kadhdhaab!
كذاب

You've got a big mouth! anta tatakallam kathiiran (mishkaljii)!
أنت تتكلم كثيرا

Get your head out of your ass! kun fii l-mustawa!
كن في المستوى

This is not a literal translation of the English sentence, which does not have an exact equivalent in Arabic. However, it conveys a similar meaning.

You bitch! yaa 'aahira!
يا ابن العاهرة!

This term is not used as easily as it is in English and other European languages. It reflects poorly on the speaker as much as on the person in question.

You bastard! yaa l-'aahira!
يا ابن العاهرة!

The note above also applies with this expression.

Shorty! yaa qasiir!
يا قصير

Fatty! yaa samiin!
يا سمين

Being moderately "fat" is not viewed negatively in the Arab world. On the contrary, it is a sign that one is happy, well off, and well-looked after (well fed).

Four-eyes! yaa abuu n-nazzaraat!
يا ابو النظارات

Weakling! yaa lad-du'f!
يا للضعف

You ain't got balls!
ليس لديك الشجاعة الكافية!
laysa ladayka ash-shajaa'a al-kaafiya!

Your tool is small!
يا صغير القضيب!
yaa saghiir l-qadiib!

Such explicit reference to someone's "tool" is not a common thing in Arabic, and should be avoided...

You're ugly!
أنت قبيح!
anta qabiih!

You're the lowest!
أنت عديم الأصل!
anta 'adiim t-asil!

Don't be so cocky!
لا تكن مغرورا!
laa takun maghruuran!

You're a tightwad!
يا بخيل!
yaa bakhiil!

Arabs value generosity, and to label someone a "tightwad" is extremely offensive.

Go to hell!
أغرب عني!
ughrub 'annii!

Fuck you!!
أغرب عني!
ughrub 'annii!

The f-word is not used in Arabic in the same way it is in English. The alternative listed here coveys a similarly strong message without the inherently offensive nature of the f-word.

Take your hands off!
إرفع يديك عني!
irfa' yadayka 'annii!



Don't touch me! لا تلمسني!	laa talmusnii!
I think you're trying to trick me. أظن انك تحاول أن تخدعني	azunnu annaka tuhaawil an takhda'nii
This can't be so expensive. لا يمكن أن يكون هذا غاليا بهذا الشكل	laa yumkin an yakuun haadha ghaaliyan bihaadhaa ash-shakl
This is different from what I've heard. هذا يختلف عما سمعت	haadha yakhtalif 'ammaa sami't!
If you think I don't know anything, you're wrong. إذا ظننت أنني لا أعلم شيئا فأنت مخطيء	idhaa zanaanta annii laa a'lam shay-an fa-anta mukhti'
Don't think I'm stupid. لا تظن أني أحمق	laa tazunn annii 'ahmaq
Explain to me why. إشرح لي لماذا	ishrah lii limaadhaa
Think about it. فكر بهذا الأمر	fakkir bihaadha l-'amr
Don't you think you're wrong? ألا تظن أنك مخطيء؟	alaa tazunn annaka mukhti'?
I want to talk to the manager. أريد أن أتكلم مع المدير	uriidu an atakallama ma'a l-mudiir
I'll never come here again. لن آتي إلى هنا مرة أخرى	lan aatii ila hunaa marra ukhraa
I'll tell all my friends. سأخبر جميع أصدقائي	sa-'ukhbir jamii' asdiqaa'ii

Tell me your name!
قلي ما إسمك

qullii maa ismuk!

You'd better remember what you tried to do.
الأفضل أن تتذكر ما حاولت أن تفعل

al'afdal an tatadhakkar maa haawalta an taf'al

Party Talk 10

Do you come here often? hal ta'tii ila huna 'aadatan?
هل تأتي إلى هنا عادة؟

To start a conversation with people you don't know, it is normal for people in the Arab countries to ask about your native country occupation, hobbies etc...

Have I seen you before? hal taqaabalna min qabl?
هل تقابلنا من قبل؟

Are you having a good time? hal tatasallaa jayyidan?
هل تتسلى جيدا ؟

You look like you're having a good time. yabduu annaka taqdii waqtan jayyidan
يبدو أنك تقضي وقتا جيدا

Yes, I'm having fun. na'am, anaa atasallaa
نعم، أنا أتسلى

We're having a good time, aren't we? nahnu naqdii waqtan mumti'an, alaysa kadhaalik?
نحن نقضي وقتا ممتعا ، أليس كذلك؟

This place is fun. haadha l-makaan jayyid lit-tasliya
هذا المكان جيد للتسلية

Can I join you? hal astatii' an ushaarikak?
هل أستطيع أن أشاركك؟

Although socializing and entertaining guests is a high priority in most Arab countries, it is still essential to check that you are indeed welcome to join in.

Shall we drink together? maa ra'yuka fii an natanaawala mashruuban?
ما رأيك في أن نتناول مشروبا ؟



Sometimes it is normal for someone to buy a drink (tea / coffee, soft drink, etc.) before checking whether you actually want it or not.

Can I buy you a drink? هل أستطيع أن أشتري لك مشروبا؟	astatii' an ashtarii laka mashruuban?
Can I sit here? هل أستطيع أن أجلس هنا؟	hal astatii' an ajlisa huna?
Has someone reserved this seat? هل هذا المقعد محجوز؟	hal haadha l-maq'ad mahjuuz?
Is someone sitting here? هل من شخص يجلس هنا؟	hal min shakhs yajlis huna?
Someone's sitting here. نعم شخص يجلس هنا	na'am shakhsun yajlis huna



Do you want to sit down? هل تريد أن تجلس؟	hal turiid an tajlis?
May I sit down? هل أستطيع أن أجلس؟	hal astatii' an ajlis?

Please sit down. ijlis min fadlik
أجلس من فضلك

Scoot over. iqtarib qaliilan
إقترب قليلا

What did you say? maadha qult?
ماذا قلت؟

What's your name? maa asmuk?
ما أسمك؟

My name's... ismii...
اسمي...

When someone introduces himself, it is customary to reply with the expression "tacharrafna", meaning "honored to meet you". This is so even in the most informal gatherings.

Guess what it is! ahzir maa haadhaa!
أحزر ما هذا

Are you here alone? hal anta wahdaka huna?
هل أنت وحدك هنا؟

Yes, I'm here alone. na'am, anaa huna wahdii
نعم، أنا هنا وحدي

No, I'm here with my friends. laa, anaa huna ma' asdiqaa'ii
لا، أنا هنا مع أصدقائي

Did you two come here together? hal ji'tumaa ma'an?
هل جئتما معا؟

Where do you live? ayna taskun?
أين تسكن؟



Where do you come from?
من أين أنت؟
min ayna ant?

How long have you been in this country?
منذ متى حضرت إلى هذه البلاد؟
mundhu mata hadrat ila haadhihi l-bilaad?

Do you like Arab guys / girls?
هل يعجبك الشباب/البنات العرب؟
hal yu'jibuka sh-shabaab / l-banaaat al-'arab?

This is a common question that should be answered diplomatically with the word "na'am" word meaning "yes".

How old are you?
كم عمرك؟
kam 'umruk?

Unlike in Western cultures, it is not offensive in Arabic culture to ask both men and women about their ages.

Are you a student?
هل أنت طالب؟
hal anta taalib?

Your English is good.
لغتك الإنكليزية جيدة
lughatuka l-inkliiziyya jayyida

What's your job?
ما هي وظيفتك (عملك)؟
maa hiya waziifatuka ('amaluk)?

That's an interesting job.
إنها وظيفة مثيرة للإهتمام
innaha waziifa muthiira lil-ihtimaam

Where do you work?
أين تعمل؟
ayna ta'mal?

How do you spend your time?
كيف تقضي وقتك؟
kayfa taqdii waqtak?

What kinds of hobbies do you have?
ما هي هوأياتك؟
maa hiya hiwaayaatuk?

What music do you like?
ما هي الموسيقى التي تعجبك؟
maa hiya l-muusiiqaa l-latii tu'jibuk?

Do you know this song? ata'rif haadhihi l-'ughniya?
أتعرف هذه الأغنية؟



I know it. a'rifuhaa
أعرفها

I don't know it. laa a'rifuhaa
لا أعرفها

This is the first time I'm hearing it. haadhihi awwalu marra asma'u dhaalik
هذه أول مرة أسمع ذلك

Shall we dance? mumkin an narqus?
ممكن أن نرقص؟



I can't dance. laa ujiidu r-raqsa
لا أجيد الرقص

Are you in the mood? hal ladayka r-raghba?
هل لديك الرغبة

Not really. al-haqiiqa laa
الحقيقة لا

I don't feel like dancing yet. lastu raaghiban fil-raqs ba'd
لست راغبا في الرقص بعد

You're a good dancer. anta tujiid r-raqsa
أنت تجيد الرقص

Complimenting others, even when the compliment is a little too generous, is important in Arabic culture.



How do you know of this place? kayfa 'arifta haadha l-makaan?
كيف عرفت هذا المكان؟

I heard from my friends. sami'tu min asdiqaa'ii
سمعت من أصدقائي

Where else do you go to dance? ila 'ayyi amaakinin 'ukhra tadhhab lir-raqs?
إلى أي أماكن أخرى تذهب للرقص؟

Let's party! hayya nahtafil!
هيا نحتفل

Let's get drunk! hayya naskar!
هيا نسكر

What are you drinking? maa<u>dh</u>aa ta<u>sh</u>rab?
ماذا تشرب؟

Have you been drinking a lot? hal <u>sh</u>aribta ka<u>th</u>iiran?
هل شربت كثيرا ؟

Well, drink some more! <u>h</u>asanaan, i<u>sh</u>rab l-maziid!
حسنا ، أشرب المزيد

You need to drink more. anta ta<u>h</u>taaj an ta<u>sh</u>rab l-maziid
أنت تحتاج أن تشرب المزيد

You're a strong drinker. anta <u>sh</u>irriib
أنت شريب

Are you drunk? hal anta sakraan?
هل أنت سكران؟

Haven't you drunk too much? alaa ta'taqid annaka <u>sh</u>aribta ka<u>th</u>iiran?
ألا تعتقد أنك شربت كثيرا ؟

Maybe you should stop drinking. mina l-af<u>d</u>al an tatawaqqafa 'an <u>sh</u>-<u>sh</u>urb
من الأفضل أن تتوقف عن الشرب

Are you OK? hal anta 'ala maa yuraam?
هل أنت على مايرام؟

What time did you come here? mata ji'ta ila huna?
متى جئت إلى هنا ؟

What time do you have to be home? mata ta'uud ila l-bayt?
متى تعود إلى البيت؟

What time are you leaving? mata sa-tu<u>gh</u>aadir?
متى ستغادر؟

It depends.
يتوقف على
yatawaqqaf 'ala

If I have a good time, I'll stay.
إذا كنت أتسلى جيدا، سأبقى
idhaa kuntu atasalla jayyidan, sa'abqaa

If this gets boring, I'll go home.
إذا ضجرت، سأغادر
idhaa dajirt, sa-ughaadir

I'll help you to have a good time.
سأساعدك لتقضي وقتا جميلا
sa'usaa'iduka litaqdii waqtan jamiilan

What's next?
ماذا بعد ذلك؟
maadha ba'da dhaalik?

Shall we leave?
هل نغادر؟
hal nughaadir?

Shall we go somewhere else?
هل نذهب إلى مكان آخر؟
hal nadhhab ila makaanin aakhar?

Can my friends come?
هل يستطيع أصدقائي أن يأتوا؟
hal yastatii' asdiqaa'ii an ya'tuu?

Where shall we go?
إلى أين نذهب؟
ila ayna nadhhab?

What shall we do?
ماذا نفعل؟
maadhaa naf'al?

It's up to you.
حسب رغبتك
hasaba raghbatik

Anywhere's OK.
أي مكان جيد
ayya makaanin jayyid

I'd like to stay here longer.
أرغب في أن أبقى هنا لفترة أطول
arghabu fii an abqaa huna lifatra atwal

Don't go yet. laa tadhhab ba'd
لا تذهب بعد

Go later. idhhab fiimaa ba'd
أذهب فيما بعد

I'll take you home. sa-aakhudhuka ila l-bayt
سآخذك إلى البيت



Do you want to come to my place? aturiidu an ta'ti ila baytii?
أتريد أن تأتي إلى بيتي؟

I'm not sure. lastu muta'akkida
لست متأكدة

Just for coffee. faqat lishurb l-qahwa
فقط لشرب القهوة

Yes, let's go. na'am, hayyaa binaa
نعم، هيابنا

Getting Serious 11

I want to know more about you. uriidu an a'rifaka akthar
أريد أن أعرفك أكثر

Getting to know a potential partner (girlfriend / boyfriend) in terms of their background, family, work, etc. is essential before the relationship can become closer.

I want to know all about you. uriidu an a'rifa kul shay' 'ank
أريد أن أعرف كل شيء عنك

I'll tell you. sa-aquulu laka
سأقول لك

Shall we meet again? hal mumkin an naltaqya marra ukhraa?
هل ممكن أن نلتقي مرة أخرى؟

When can I see you next time? mata astatii' an araaka marra ukhraa?
متى أستطيع أن أراك مرة أخرى؟

May I call you? hal mumkin an attasila bik?
هل ممكن أن أتصل بك؟

Calling someone at home is not always a straightforward issue if you have not been introduced to the family. This is especially true for calling girls at their home numbers.

May I have your phone number? hal mumkin an ahsula 'ala raqim haatifik?
هل ممكن أن أحصل على رقم هاتفك؟

Here's my phone number. haadha huwa raqim haatifii
هذا هو رقم هاتفي

Do you have something to write with?
هل لديك قلما ؟
hal ladayka qalaman?

Will you call me?
هل ستتصل بي؟
hal sa-tattasil bii?

I enjoyed myself.
لقد أستمتعت كثيرا
laqad istamta'tu kathiiran

It was fun.
كان مسليا
kaana musalliyan

Take care.
كن حذرا
kun hadhiran

See you later.
إلى اللقاء
ila al-liqaa'

See you tomorrow.
أراك غدا
araaka ghadan

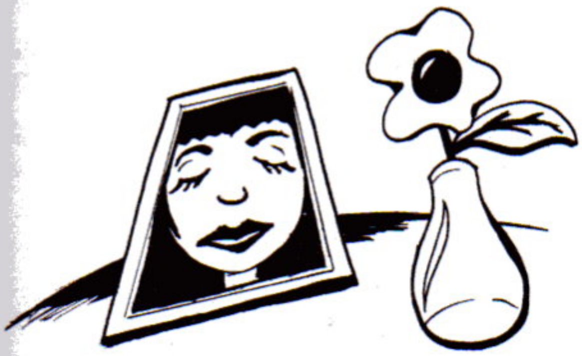
Hello.
مرحبا
marhaban



Is Mary at home?
هل ماري في البيت؟
hal Mary fil-bayt?

Hold on please.
إنتظر أرجوك
intazir arjuuk

Mary, telephone! ماري تليفون!	Mary, tilifuun!
Mary is out. ماري ليست هنا	Mary laysat hunaa
Please tell her I called. أرجو أن تخبرها أنني إتصلت	arjuu an tukhbirhaa annanii ittasalt.
This is Robert. هذا روبرت	haadha Robert
Are you doing OK? هل أنت على ما يرام؟	hal anta 'ala maa yuraam?
What have you been doing? ماذا كنت تفعل؟	maadha kunta taf'al?
I've missed you. إشتقت إليك	ishtaqtu ilayk
I've been thinking of you. كنت أفكر بك	kuntu ufakkiru bika



I want to see you. أريد أن أراك	uriidu an araaka
Shall we meet now? ممكن أن نلتقي الآن؟	mumkin an naltaqii al-aan?

I can't go out now. laa astatii' an akhruja ala'an
لا استطيع أن أخرج الآن

Going out (for girls) can be a tricky affair as it has to be authorized by parents and / or other family members. However, if a group of friends are to go out together during reasonable hours, then it should not be a difficult occasion to organise.

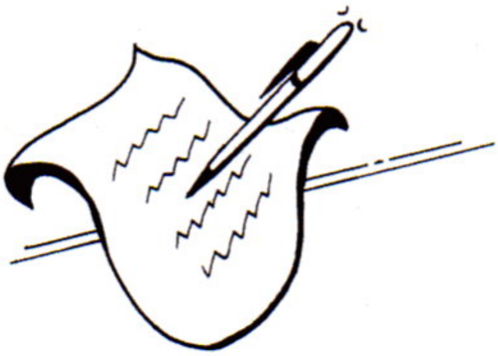
I'll call you again. sa-attasil bika marra ukhra
سأتصل بك مرة أخرى

I'll call you tomorrow at six o'clock. sa-attasil bika ghadan as-saa'a as-saadisa
سأتصل بك غدا الساعة السادسة

Please be in. arjuuk kun fil-bayt
أرجوك كن في البيت

I'll write you a letter. sa-aktub laka risaala
سأكتب لك رسالة

Will you write me a letter? hal sataktub lii risaala?
هل ستكتب لي رسالة؟



I'll call you from America. sa-attasil bika min amriikaa
سأتصل بك من أمريكا

I'll call you when I return. sa-attasil bika 'indamaa a'uud
سأتصل بك عندما أعود؟

I'll be back soon. سأعود قريبا	sa-a'uud qariiban
Do you have to go? هل يجب أن تذهب الأن؟	hal yajib an tadhhab al-aan?
Please don't go. أرجوك لا تذهب	arjuuk laa tadhhab
Stay here with me. إبق هنا معي	ibqa huna ma'ii
Please understand. أرجوك كن متفهما	arjuuk kun mutafahim
I have to go because it's my job. يجب أن أذهب بسبب وظيفتي (عملي)	yajib an adhhaba bisabab waziifatii ('amalii)
Take care of your health. انتبه إلى صحتك	intabih ila sihhatik
Please wait for my return. أرجوك أنتظرني حتى أعود	arjuuk intazirnii hatta a'uud
Don't cry. لاتبك	laa tabki
Wipe your tears. إمسح دموعك/إمسحي دموعك	imsah dumuu'ak / imsahii dumuu'aki



I can't stand it! laa astatii' an ahtamil dhaalik!
لا أستطيع أن أحتمل ذلك

It's difficult for me too. innahu sa'bun 'alayya aydan
إنه صعب علي أيضا

Lovers' Language 12

I love you. uhibbuk
أحبك

Declaring one's love does not happen rapidly. It takes a rather long time before one is able to utter such statements as they indicate a long-term commitment beyond the immediate future.



I'm crazy about you. anaa majnuun bihubbik
أنا مجنون بحبك

I'm yours. anaa kullii lak
أنا كلي لك

You're mine. anti mulkii
أنت ملكي

You look beautiful. anti jamiila
أنت جميلة

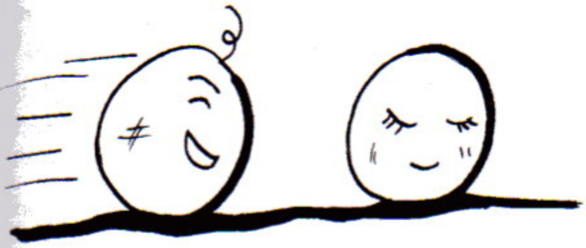
You look handsome. anta wasiim
أنت وسيم

It is common for women to compliment men, but not too excessively.

You're attractive. أنت جذابة	anti jadhaaba
You're sexy. جمالك مثير جدا	jamaaluki muthiir jiddan
You have beautiful eyes / lips/ hands / teeth / legs / breasts. عيناك/شفتاك/يداك/أسنانك/ ساقاك/ثديك جميلة	'aynaaki / shafataaki / yadaaki / asnaanik / saaqaaki / thadyaki jamiil(a)
Your face / nose / neck is lovely. وجهك/أنفك/رقبتك جميل	wajhuk / anfuk / raqbatuk jamiil
You have a beautiful body. أنت رشيقة القوام	anti rashiiqata l-qawaam
You smell sweet. رائحتك طيبة	ra'ihatuki tayyiba
May I kiss you? هل لي أن أقبلك؟	hal lii an uqabbiluk?
Kiss me. قبلني	qabbilnii

Girls in most Arab countries show a lot of modesty when it comes to dis-playing physical affection. It is rare for them to ask explicitly for "kisses".

Where? أين؟	ayna?
I want to hold your hand. أريد أن أمسك يدك	uriidu an umsika yadik
Look into my eyes. أنظري في عيني	unzurii fii 'aynay



Come closer to me. إقتربي مني	iqtaribii minnii
Hug me. أحضني	uhdunnii
Take your clothes off. إخلعي ملابسك الداخلية	ikhla'ii malaabisik ad-daakhiliyya
Take your shoes / socks / shirt / jeans off. إخلع حذائك/جواربك/قميصك/ سروالك	ikhla' hidha'auk / jawaaribik / qamiisik / sirwaalik
Take your dress / bra / panties off. إخلعي فستانك/صدريتك/ ملابسك الداخلية	ikhla'ii fustaanik / sidriyyatik / malaabisik ad-daakhiliyya
I'm cold. أنا بردان	anaa bardaan
Make me warm. دفئني	daffi'nii
That tickles. هذا يدغدغ	hadhaa yudaghdigh
I want to see your... أريد أن أرى...	uriidu an araa...
I want to kiss your... أريد أن أقبل...	uriidu an uqabbil...

I want to suck your... أريد أن أمص...	uriidu an amuss...

Such explicit language is not common among Arabic lovers.

knees الركبة	ar-rukba
toes أصابع القدم	asaabi' l-qadam
thing شيء	shay'
breasts ثدي	thadii
nipples الحلمات	al-halmaat
pussy المهبل	al-mahbal
butt المؤخرة	al-mu'akhira
dick قضيب	qadiib
balls خشيتان	khisyataan
Do you want to have sex? هل تريد أن تمارس الجنس معي؟	hal turiid an tumaarisa l-jins ma'ii?
I'm embarrassed. أنا خجلانة	anaa khajlaana
Don't be shy. لا تخجل	laa takhjal
Close your eyes. أغلق عينيك	aghliq 'aynayk

Turn off the light.
أطفئ النور
atfi' an-nuur

Look the other way for a second.
أنظر إلى الجانب الآخر للحظة
unzur ila l-jaanib l-aakhar lilahza

Is this your first time?
هل هذه أول مرة لك؟
hal haadhihi awwal marra lak?

Tell me the truth.
قل الحقيقة
qul l-haqiiqa

I'm still a virgin.
ما زلت عذراء
maa ziltu 'adhraa'

Virginity is very important for girls in the Arab / Muslim world. A girl is not meant to lose her virginity before marriage.

I'm frightened.
أنا خائفة
anaa khaa'ifa

Don't worry.
لا تقلقي
laa taqlaqii

It's going to be OK.
كل شيء سيكون على ما يرام
kul shay' sayakuun 'ala maa yuraam

I'll be careful.
سأكون حذرا
saakuun hadhiran

Treat me gently.
عاملني بلطف
'aamilnii bilutf

I'm afraid I'll get pregnant.
أخشى أن أحمل
akhsha an ahmil

I don't want to have a baby.
لا أريد أطفالا الآن
laa uriidu atfaalan al-aan

Will you use protection?
هل ستستعمل الواقي؟
hal satasta'mil l-waaqii?

Another word for "condom" is "al-kabuut".

I don't like to wear a condom.
لا أحب استعمال الواقي
laa uhibb isti'maal l-waaqii

If you don't wear a condom, I won't do it.
إذا لم تستعمل الواقي، فلن أمارس الجنس معك
idhaa lam tasta'mil l-waaqii, falan umaaris l-jins ma'ak

Are you on the pill?
هل تتناولي حبوب منع الحمل؟
hal tatanaawalii hubuub man' l-hamal

Is today safe for you?
هل اليوم مناسب لك؟
hal l-yawm munaasib lak?

I want you.
أريدك
uriiduk

It's been a long time.
لم أمارس الجنس منذ مدة
lam umaaris l-jins mundhu mudda

How do you want me to do it?
كيف تفضلين ممارست الجنس؟
kayfa tufaddiliin mumarasat l-jins?

I feel so good.
أشعر بالسعادة
ash'ur bis-sa'aada

Touch me.
المسني
ilmisnii

Bite me.
عضني
'uddanii

Love me more.
أحبني أكثر
ahibbanii akthir

More and more.
أكثر فأكثر
akthar fa-akthar

Do the same thing again.
كرر نفس الشيء
karrir nafsa sh-shay'

Stronger. بشكل أقوى	bi-shakl aqwaa
Softer. بلطف	bi-lutf
Faster. أسرع	asra'
Slower. ببطء	bi-but'
Deeper. أعمق	a'maq
I'm coming. لقد وصلت الذروة	laqad wasaltu adh-dharwa
Wait, wait! إنتظر، إنتظر	intazir, intazir!
Did you like that? هل أعجبك ذلك؟	hal a'jabaki dhaalik?
Did you come? هل وصلت الذروة؟	hal wasalta dh-dharwa?
I came. نعم، وصلت الذروة	na'am, wasaltu dh-dharwa
That was good. كان ذلك جيدا	kaana dhaalika jayyidan
That was wonderful. كان ذلك رائعا	kaana dhaalika raa'i'an
I don't want to leave you. لا أريد أن أتركك	laa uriidu an atrukak

This is an indication of strong attachment and serious intentions. It should be taken very seriously.

I want to stay with you forever. — uriidu an abqaa ma'ak lil'abad
أريد أن أبقى معك للأبد

One more time? — marra ukhra?
مرة أخرى؟

The Other Side 13

Will you marry me?
هل تتزوجني/هل تتزوجيني؟
hal tatazawwajanii / hal atatazawwajiinii?

Popping the question in the Arab world takes place formally at the family level. Nowadays, this follows a period of semi-formal dating / engagement which normally leads to marriage.



Let's get married.
هيا فلنتزوج
hayya fa-li-natazawwaj

I want to be your wife / husband.
أريد أن أكون زوجتك/زوجك
uriidu an akuuna zawjataka / zawjaki

Will you come to America / Australia / Europe with me?
هل تأتين معي إلى أمريكا / أستراليا / أوروبا ؟
hal ta'tiina ma'ii ila amriikaa / ustraaliya / urubaa?

Young people in the Arab world are not free to travel overseas unless this is sanctioned by their families and is specifically related to work, study or other family business.

I want to stay in this country.
أريد أن أبقى في هذا البلد
uriidu an abqaa fii haadha al-balad

I don't want to leave my family.
لا أريد أن أترك عائلتي
laa uriidu an atruka 'aa'ilatii

I don't want to get married yet.
لا أريد أن أتزوج بعد
laa uriidu an atazawwaja ba'du

I don't want to get engaged yet.
لا أريد أن أخطب بعد
laa uriidu an akhtuba ba'du

I don't want to think about marriage yet.
لا أريد أن أفكر في الزواج بعد
laa uriidu an ufakkira fiz-zawaaj ba'du

I'm too young.
أنا صغير جدا في السن
anaa saghiir jiddan fi s-sinn

It's not time for me to get serious.
هذا ليس وقت الأمور الجدية
haadha laysa waqt al-umuur al-jiddiyya

I love you but I can't marry you.
أحبك لكن لا أستطيع أن أتزوجك
uhibbuka laakin laa astatii' an atazawwajak

I'm already married.
أنا متزوج
anaa mutazawwij

Married people (in particular women) do not enter in extra-marital affairs as this brings shame onto them and their families.

I need time to myself.
أحتاج وقتا لنفسي
ahtaaju waqtan linafsii



I need time to think. أحتاج وقتا لأفكر	ahtaaju waqtan li'ufakkir
This is so sudden. هذا مفاجئ	haadha mufaaji'
We must think about this. يجب أن نفكر بذلك	yajib an nufakkira bi-dhaalik
You don't love me any more, do you? لم تعد تحبني أبدا ، أليس هذا صحيحا ؟	lam ta'ud tuhibbunii abadan, alaysa haadha sahiihan?
Do you have another girlfriend / boyfriend? هل لديك صديق أخر / صديقة أخرى ؟	hal ladayka sadiiq aakhar / sadiiqa ukhraa?
Please tell me, I want to know. أرجوك أخبرني، أريد أن أعرف	arjuuka akhbirnii, uriidu an a'rifa
Let's not see each other again. لنتوقف عن رؤية بعضنا	li-natawaqqaf 'an ru'yat ba'dina
I can't see you anymore. لا أستطيع أن أراك في المستقبل	laa astatii' an araak fii l-mustaqbal
I have another girlfriend / boyfriend. عندي صديق آخر/صديقة أخرى	'indii sadiiq aakhar / sadiiqa ukhraa
I like you, but I don't love you anymore. أنت تعجبني ولكنني لم أعد أحبك	anta tu'jibnii wa laakinnii lam a'ud uhibbuk
I'm not interested in you anymore. لم يعد لدي أي إهتمام بك	lam ya'ud ladayya ayy ihtimaam bik.

Being with you is no fun. wujuudii ma'ak lam ya'ud musalliyan.
وجودي معك لم يعد مسليا

You're boring! anta mumill!
أنت ممل

This is strong statement that indicates genuine dislike.

I hate you! akrahuka!
أكرهك

Same as above.

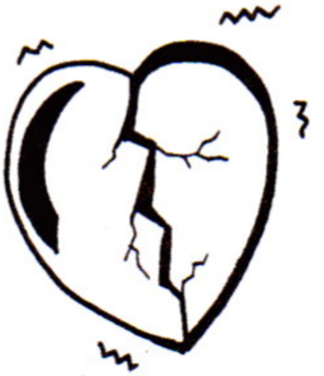
I'm not good for you. anaa ghayru munaasib lak.
أنا غير مناسب لك

This is a more acceptable way of indicating a break-up.

Forget about me. insaanii
انساني

I'm sorry it didn't work out. aasif li-ann al-mawduu' lam yatimm
أسف لأن الموضوع لم يتم

It's over. intahaa al-mawduu'
إنتهى الموضوع



I won't call you any more. lan attasila bika ba'da al-aan
لن أتصل بك بعد الآن

Don't call me again. laa tatasil bii ba'da al-aan
لا تتصل بي بعد الآن

I'm going to change my phone number. sawfa ughayyir raqma haatifii
سوف أغير رقم هاتفي

Don't be persistent. laa takun musirran
لا تكن مصرا

Stop bothering me. tawaqqaf 'an iza'aajii
توقف عن ازعاجي

It is an unacceptable offence to persist in calling a girl if she indicates that she does not want to continue the relationship. If the family becomes aware of such harassment then the consequences could be serious.

Get lost! insarif min hunaa!
انصرف من هنا

I'm sorry I haven't been a good girlfriend / boy-friend. aasif li'anii lam akun sadiiqan jayyidan
آسف لأني لم أكن صديق جيد

It's my fault. haadha khata'ii
هذا خطئي

Can't we start again? alaa nastatii' an nabda'a min jadiid?
ألا نستطيع أن نبدأ من جديد؟

Forget it! insaa dhaalika!
إنسى ذلك

I'm serious about you. anaa atakallam bijiddiya.
أنا أتكلم بجدية

I can't live without you. laa astatii'u an a'iisha biduunik
لا أستطيع أن أعيش بدونك

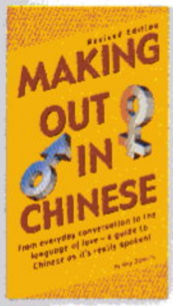
Please understand my feelings. arjuuka tafahham mashaa'irii
أرجوك تفهم مشاعري

I'll miss you. سأشتاق إليك	sa-ashtaaqu ilayk
I'll never forget you. لن أنساك أبدا	lan ansaak abadan.
Thanks for the beautiful memories. أشكرك على الذكريات الجميلة	ashkuruk 'alaa adh-dhikrayaat al-jamiila.
I'm so happy to have known you. أنا سعيد جدا لأني عرفتك	anaa sa'iidun jiddan li'annii 'araftuk
Remember me sometimes. تذكرني بين الحين والآخر	tadhakkarnii bayn l-hiin wa l-aakhar.
Can we still be friends? هل ممكن أن نبقى أصدقاء؟	hal mumkin an nabqaa asdiqaa'?
Be happy with her / him. أتمنى لك السعادة معه/أتمنى لك السعادة معها	atamanna laka as-saa'ada ma'ahaa / atamanna laki as-saa'ada ma'ahu.
I'll always think of you. سأتذكرك دائما	sa-atadhakaruk daa'iman
I'll always love you. سأحبك دائما	sa-uhibbuk daa'iman

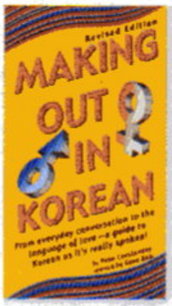


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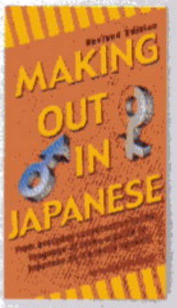
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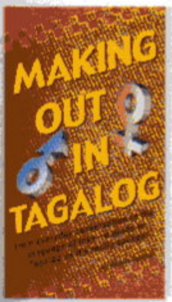
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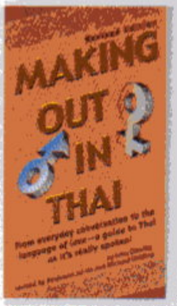
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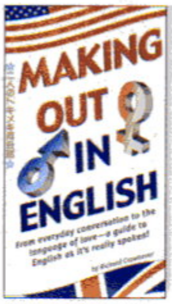
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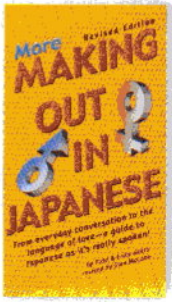
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